

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUNICH 01535 261032Z

16

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBIE-00 JUSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05 /063 W

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R 251600Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6024

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOCI, GW

SUBJECT: NEWSPAPERS ALLEGE AMERICAN MURDERER OF GERMAN  
TAXI DRIVER IMMUNE FROM PROSECUTION IN U.S.

SUMMARY. CONSIDERABLE NEWSPAPER ATTENTION BEING GIVEN IN MUNICH TO REPORTS FROM TEXAS OF LIE-DETECTOR SOLUTION OF 10-YEAR OLD MURDER OF MUNICH TAXI CAB DRIVER. ASIDE FROM INHERENT DRAMA OF CASE, INTEREST CENTERS ON QUESTION WHETHER ALLEGED PERPETRATOR, FORMER U.S. SOLDIER NOW LIVING IN TEXAS, WILL BE IMMUNE FROM PROSECUTION EITHER IN GERMANY OR U.S. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING PAST SEVERAL DAYS MUNICH PRESS HAS DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE, AND IN SOME INSTANCES SENSATIONAL, ATTENTION TO REPORTS EMANATING FROM TEXAS THAT FORMER U.S. SERVICEMAN HAS ADMITTED UNDER LIE-DETECTOR EXAMINATION THAT HE HAD BEEN WITNESS TO MURDER IN MUNICH ON NIGHT OF 17-18 APRIL 1965 OF KARL-HEINZ SEIDENFUSS BY ANOTHER AMERICAN SOLDIER (IDENTIFIED BY SUDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG JULY 24 AS GEOFFRY LYNN ALLISON OF LINDEN, TEXAS). SEIDENFUSS'S MURDER APPARENTLY CREATED SENSATION AT THE TIME IN MUNICH BUT, AFTER THOROUGH INVESTIGATIONS BY BOTH GERMAN AND AMERICAN MILITARY POLICE, WAS RELEGATED TO "UNSOLVED" FILES.

2. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION REPORTEDLY CONVEYED MUNICH DISTRICT  
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PAGE 02 MUNICH 01535 261032Z

ATTORNEY'S OFFICE BY AUTHORITIES OF ELKHART, TEXAS, HOWARD L. (SO

IDENTIFIED BY SUDDEUTSCHER ZEITUNG, JULY 24) WAS UNDERGOING ROUTINE SECURITY INVESTIGATION FOR EMPLOYMENT AS LOCAL POLICE OFFICER WHEN LIE-DETECTOR TEST LED TO ADMISSION OF WITNESS TO MURDER. TEXAS AUTHORITIES HAVE ALLEGEDLY INDICATED TO MUNICH DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE THAT THEY HAVE NO INTEREST IN INITIATING ANY LEGAL ACTION, AND LOCAL NEWSPAPERS ARE GIVING HEAVY PLAY TO POSSIBILITY THAT KNOWN MURDERER MAY ESCAPE PROSECUTION. ACCORDING TO THIS SPECULATION, U.S. AUTHORITIES ARE NOT AUTHORIZED EITHER TO PROSECUTE ON BASIS OF CRIME ADMITTED OUTSIDE TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OR SURRENDER AMERICAN CITIZEN TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENT FOR PROSECUTION EXCEPT IN CASES OF SO-CALLED "INTERNATIONAL CRIMES" SUCH AS DRUG TRAFFIC, COUNTERFEITING, OR WHITE SLAVERY. TODAY'S TZ-MUENCHEN CARRIES "MAN ON STREET" INTERVIEWS WITH FOUR MUNICH CITIZENS, ALL OF WHOM EXPRESS DEGREES OF AMAZEMENT, INDIGNATION, AND SHOCK AT POSSIBILITY THAT KNOWN MURDERER MIGHT GO FREE IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. WHILE, AS EARLIER INDICATED, PRESS TREATMENT THIS CASE HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE AND IN SOME CASES SENSATIONAL, NO INDICATION AS YET THAT IT IS BALLOONING INTO MAJOR PROPORTIONS OR THAT ANY LEVEL OF BAVARIAN OR FRG GOVERNMENT SERIOUSLY INVOLVED. NO INQUIRIES HAVE THUS FAR BEEN ADDRESSED TO CONGEN. HOWEVER, SHOULD CURRENT INTEREST BE MAINTAINED OR INCREASE, WOULD BE USEFUL TO US TO HAVE SOME INDICATION OF LINE WE COULD TAKE IN ANSWERING EITHER FORMAL OR INFORMAL INQUIRIES. SPIVACK

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, CRIMES, MURDER, MILITARY PERSONNEL, DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <04 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEWSPAPERS ALLEGE AMERICAN MURDERER OF GERMAN TAXI DRIVER IMMUNE FROM PROSECUTION IN U.S.  
**TAGS:** SOCI, GE, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006